

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-9 (Cancelled)

10. (Currently amended) A method, comprising:

dispatching a bus transaction from a requestor to a device;

starting a timer in response to dispatching of the bus transaction;

determining if the timer expires before the device responds to the dispatched bus transaction; and

issuing a deferred transaction response to the requestor if the timer expires.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein starting occurs only if an in-order-queue has a depth of 1.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein issuing includes issuing an unconditionally deferred transaction.

13. (Currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a command dispatcher coupled to a command queue;

a detector coupled to the command dispatcher to detect if a command dispatched to the command queue by the command dispatcher has been responded to;

a timer coupled to the detector, the timer to start in response to dispatching of the command; and

logic coupled to the timer to issue a deferred response to the requestor if the timer expires before the command has been responded to.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the logic includes logic to issue the deferred response if an in-order-queue has a depth of 1.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the timer is a programmable timer.

16. (Currently amended) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon instructions, which when executed by at least one machine cause said at least one machine to perform:

receiving a bus transaction from a requestor to a device;

starting a timer in response to dispatching of the bus transaction;

determining if the timer expires before the device responds to the dispatched bus transaction; and

issuing a deferred transaction response to the requestor if the timer expires.

17. (Original) The medium of claim 16, wherein starting occurs only if an in-order-queue has a depth of 1.

18. (Original) The medium of claim 16, wherein issuing includes issuing an unconditionally deferred transaction.

19 – 27 (Cancelled)

28 – 30 (Cancelled)